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READING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Administration Offices

Harry K. Harutunian, Ph.D.
Superintendent

82 Oakland Road
Post Office Box 180
Reading, Massachusetts 01867

Dennis A. Richards
Associate Superintendent

Tel. 781-944-5800 • Fax 781-942-9149

To: Harry K. Harutunian

From: Dennis Richards
Associate Superintendent

Date: September 1, 1999

Re: Alleged Chinese Cultural Connection Break-in

As you requested, I have investigated the incident at the Chinese Cultural Connection (CCC) that occurred on Thursday, August 26, 1999.

I spoke to Dominic Cacciapuoti, Assistant Director of Facilities; Frank Orlando, High School Principal; Reading Public School electricians and high school custodians; Phil Vaccaro, Athletic Director and Coordinator of Extracurricular Activities; a high school secretary; and Ms. Mei Hung, CCC Director. I also read the police report of the allegations and spoke to Detective Michael Saunders who is investigating the case.

To the best of my knowledge, Reading Public School electricians worked in the CCC area the week of August 23-27 and had to enter the CCC office to install an electrical line and breaker for an air conditioner they were installing in an adjacent office. They admit moving a desk and unplugging a computer.

Reading Public School custodians worked outside the CCC area washing floors and stripping the floors of wax during the week of August 9-13. Before they started work, they noticed that the door to the CCC was open. They left it open because they thought Mei Hung was in the area.

Mei Hung apparently reported to the police that she believes papers documenting CCC's workshops in Reading were missing on August 12, 1999. She also does not understand why Reading employees would be in CCC's offices without permission from her.

Dominic Cacciapuoti indicated that high school custodians had a cordial relationship with the former director of CCC and that they emptied trash for her at times and assisted her in other ways. He believes she may have even bought them Christmas gifts and the custodians had permission to enter the office at will using Reading keys on Reading locks.

Phil Vaccaro received a whiteboard delivered in a large cardboard box which was placed in the hallway. After removing the whiteboard, Phil left the box in the hallway so the custodian would dispose of it. For a time, the box blocked the view to the CCC office. Phil also indicated to me that he has frequently seen CCC representatives throughout the years using the RMHS copier and paper. This copying by CCC representatives was confirmed by one of the high school secretaries to whom I spoke.

I spoke to Mei Hung, CCC Director, who indicated that she realized in the middle of August that the CCC file on Reading was missing. It has not turned up as of Tuesday, August 31, 1999. She indicated she did see the electricians working on the air conditioner's electrical connections on Monday or Tuesday, August 23 or 24, 1999. Last Thursday, August 26, 1999 she found the door to her office open and called the police to file a complaint.

Conclusion:

Based on the information I have gathered I have no reason to believe that anything other than normal maintenance and custodial work has occurred.

As for the allegation filed by Mei Hung that CCC's Reading file is missing, I found no information to confirm the allegation.